



NEWS FROM
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21ST SENATE DISTRICT



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AMMUNITION SALES TO MINORS BILL
Senator Jack Scott Authors SB 48

SACRAMENTO – A bill aimed at keeping ammunition out of the hands of minors has passed its first legislative hurdle. The measure, authored by State Senator Jack Scott (D-Pasadena), passed the Senate Public Safety Committee this morning on a unanimous, bipartisan vote (7-0).

A person must be 18 years of age to buy ammunition in California and 21 years of age to purchase handgun bullets. Under current law, it is a crime to sell ammunition to anyone under 18 (or, for handgun ammunition, 21), if the seller knows the buyer is underage. Here's the catch - there is no law requiring vendors to check identification to make sure the buyer is of legal age. SB 48, the Ammunition Sales to Minors Bill, would close that loophole.

"In California, the number of young people killed by firearms is alarming," stated Senator Scott. "Over three thousand adolescents were killed by guns in 2003 and more than 7-thousand were arrested for weapons related offenses. If you don't have bullets, you can't fire the weapon. So, let's close this loophole and save some young lives."

This measure will change the law to make it similar to one regarding the sale of alcohol to underage buyers. Seller's who check identification will be shielded from liability.

SB 48 is backed by the California Department of Justice, the California District Attorney's Association, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office, Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Youth Alive! and the Million Mom March.

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